





THE
Morall Philosophy
OF THE
S T O I C K S.

Written Originally in FRENCH
by that Ingenious Gentleman
Monsieur du Vaix, first President
of the Parliament of Provence.

Englighed by *Charles Cotton, Esq;*

Ea Philosophia vis est, ut non solum studentes, sed etiam conversantes juvet.
Sen. Epist.

LONDON,
Printed for *Henry Mortlock* at the
sign of the Phœnix in St. Pauls
Church-yard, near the little
North door. 1664.

Perlegi ingeniosum bunc Libel-
lum, cui Titulus (The Moral Phi-
losophy of the Stoicks,) quem
non indignum censeo qui

Typis Mandetur.

Joh. Hall. R. P. D. Humf.

Episc. Lond. à fac. Dom.

April. 13. 1664.

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i-
m
f.
m. *To my Honoured Friend and
Kinsman Iohn Ferrers
Esq;*

Honoured Cozen,

 T is so long since I
writ to you, that I
am now ashamed
to appear before you
any other way then
this, where this little mark of
my respect, may something pre-
tend to your pardon for what is
past, by shewing you, That how-

A 3 ever

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ever I may have neglected, I can never forget you ; and although I am sensible, that I repair an unkindness by an injury, whil'st I impose this Trifle upon your Patronage ; yet I cannot much consider that, when I call to mind how kindly you have ever entertained my friendship, and how unapt you are to interpret your friends to their disadvantage. This little thing that I present to you, and to the world in your name, I translated seven years ago, by my Fathers command, who was a great admirer of the Author : so that what you see, was an effect of my obedience, and no part of my choice ; my little studies (especially at that time) lying another way : neither

The Epistle Dedicatory.

neither had I now published it, but that I was unwilling to have a thing (how mean soever) turned to waste Paper, that cost me some hours pains, and which (however I may have disguised it) is no ill thing in it self.

For what concerns the Dedication of it to you, I must confess, that besides my gratitude, to which I am ever bound, I had a collaterall design upon your protection, supposing that the censuring world would use me with more respect upon your account; and although you stand in need of no Morall precept to make you a perfect good man: yet perhaps it may not be altogether unpleasant to you, to look back into your own practice,

The Epistle Dedicatory.
and to read over your own Ver-
tues, which are such, as amongst
many others, and many wor-
thier have particularly obliged
me to profess my self

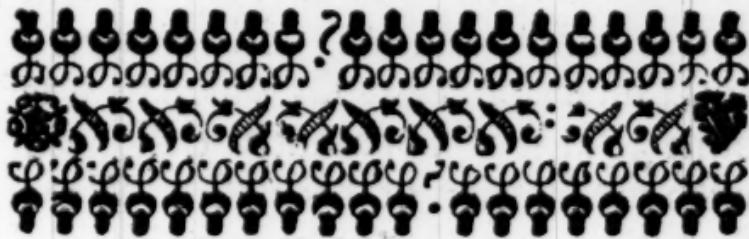
Honoured Cozen,

Your most humble Servant,

February 27.
1663.

C. C.

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THERE is nothing in the world that tends not to some End; Even insensible things seem to advance, and adapt themselves to their proper use, and being applyed thereto, discover a kind of consent, and seem to apprehend the Perfection of their Being. Things that are endowed with action, move of themselves, as we see; and all the Animals

Animals in generall, and every of them in this kind, pursues with fervency and Emulation, That for which he was born ; and is apparently delighted with the fruition of his desire. What then shall man do, to whom Nature (above things without life) hath given Sence, and (above the Common Sence of other Animals) hath given discourse and Reason to know and choose, of things presented to Him the most excellent, and proper to his use ? May we not conclude Him to have his proper end decreed him, as the utmost aim of all his actions ? And that, as the happiness of all things is their Perfection, and Perfection the fruition of the End; so the Felicity of Man shall consist in the acquisition and atcheivement of that he proposes to himself, and to which all his Actions tend ? Now the End of Man, and all his thoughts and Inclinations, is Geod. And indeed, there is none amongst you that desires not good, and flyes not Ill ; and who being asked, why he doth this, or that,

that, will not answer, because he thinks to do well. And though in the Number of our actions, the greater are found to be Ill ; notwithstanding the general Purpose, by which we are led, is ever to arrive at Good. But, as he that shoots at a mark, if his aim be obstructed, either by the infirmity of the Eye, or the corruption of the Air, or if he mistake one thing for another, though he earnestly desire to hit, must err ; so we, not rightly knowing in what consists our good, and often mistaking that about it, for the thing it self, dispose our particular actions wide of the general Intent. Good is not (truly) exposed here to the view of all the world, Nature hath strewed below but weak sparks of its light, which nevertheless purely applied to our minds, breaks out into a glorious flame, and makes a true discovery of it self. We must then seek it, and we shall find it, and finding, know it : For, as truth, presenting it self to the understanding, is received with great

great Content, and satisfaction; so Good, presenting it self to the Will, shall, there, be joyfully embraced, as its natural object: I think, that, properly to define Good, a man may say it is nothing but the Essence and operation according to Nature; who is so wise a Mistress, as that she hath disposed all things to their best Estate; hath given them their first inclination to Good, and the End they ought to seek; so that who will follow, cannot fail to obtain it. By Nature Man should be so composed, that the most Excellent Quality should govern in him; and that, of things, presented to his Choice, his Reason should make use of such as are most decent, and most to his purpose. The Good, then, of Man consists in his healthfull Reason, that is to say, his Virtue; which is nothing but a constant Disposition of the Will to pursue things Honest, and fit. There is none but will acknowledge this for Good; but many will say, that in this, alone, the Good of man cannot consist; but

but that, withall , he must have a Body sound, and well dispos'd ; Commodities, without which Life cannot stand ; or,at the least, be happy. But, if what we have said,in the beginning, be true, and that the end of every thing is his Good, and his Good, his End ; and, that these two so weave themselves into one another, that the One cannot subsist without the other; a man may say , that neither Health, nor Body are the Good of Man, seeing they are not his End : for he possesses not them, but to serve him to a further Use : and the most part of his Age, he is miserable with all this : unless we shall approve them for happy, to whom wealth and strong Constitutions serve only (as to very many) to nourish their vices, and foment their Passions. But a man may say, They help us to arrive at that End, and they are Instruments, without which, Man cannot reach this principall Good : and consequently (as they are necessary to the acquisition of That) ought

ought themselves to be reputed Goods. To which I shall answer; That it is improper to call that good, which only serves to acquire good, and that which is the subject and matter of good: For vertue, which we have declared to be the true Good, is of such a nature, that she serves her self indifferently with contrary things, & doth good with Poverty, as well as with Riches, with Sicknes as well as with health: We commend him that suffers his wants with patience, his sickness with constancy, as we do him that liberally distributes his substance, and lives virtuously in his health: So that if you will call Riches good, because they are assistant to vertue, call poverty so too: for even she attends her more: But because we have no pretence for the calling two things so contrary in themselves, by one and the same name, let all such things rest indifferent, as are rendred good, or ill by the disposition of man; and without which, he may arrive at his End;

End ; which is, to be composed according to perfect Reason , to make good use of things presented to him, and consequently to possess the fruition of his Good. If we would rightly know, in what consists our good, we must discover what , in our selves, adheres to it ; (for it must be a good of that side) since nothing seeks another good, then is annexed to its own. Now (without all doubt) the Beginnings and movers of our actions, in us, are the Understanding, and the Will ; the Good then, that we aim at, should be their perfection, Peace and Satisfaction. But if we there place Health , and Wealth , and esteem them our Goods , and consequently, what are their Contraries, Ills, why do we not presently declare, that we can have no felicity in this world and that our lives are, here, no other then a perpetual Hell? For ye shall always have the Images of Death, and affliction before your Eyes which you esteem ills ; and, of which the one is often present,

present, and the other ever threatening, by his nearer approach. If these be ills, Fear is just, and how happy is that man, who is alwayes in fear? Let us then either conclude, that man hath no good decreed him in this world, to which he can possibly arrive, or, that That Good wholly depends upon Virtue.

The end that any one proposes to himself of things, must be proportioned to his power; if, otherwise it be impossible for him to obtain, instead of his good, it becomes his affliction. It were the work of *Danaids* to fill perforated Vessels, if among all the Sciences, there were none that designs her self an End, to which she may arrive by her own Precepts. Can we imagine that Nature, who is the Mother of all Arts, and Sciences, hath ordained for Man (Her chiefest work) an End beyond his Power? The Will (we say) is that which seeks our good; and a will well governed, will nothing but what it can, nor busie it self

self with things beyond our reach ; as with Health, Riches and Honour : If in these consisted our good, it were in vain to employ our Reason, and Will ; we should attempt it by wishes and vows, as a thing depending upon a thousands accidents, not to be foreseen, or withstood ; and of which Fortune is the only Mistress. How likely is it (I beseech you) that Nature having created Man the most perfect of all her works, should ordain Him so miserable, as that his Good, which should be his perfection, not only should depend upon another, but upon so many things, which he must never hope can be all favourable to him ; and that He should (like another *Tantalus*) be there perpetually gaping for his long'd for waters ? Nature commands you, for good, to have the understanding disposed for the use of what is presented to you, and to pass by things you cannot have : Had you rather rely on Fortune, and expect from her

falacious hand your good, than to work it your selves? It is a Law divine, and inviolable from the beginning of the world, that the good we would have, we must give to our selves. Nature hath bestowed a Magazine in our minds; let us there stretch forth the hand of the will, and take what Arms we please: if that will be reasonable, and moderate, it turns all things to good, as *Midas* turned all things to gold by his touch. We can meet no accident in our Persons or Estates so malicious, whence we should not extract Peace and satisfaction of mind: if we can satisfie that, we have obtained our End; For though we were content so much to slacken the severity of this Sect, as to confess, that Body and Goods (which are but the instruments of life) make a part in Man, and have power, by their quality, to disturb that of the Soul; we ought, notwithstanding, never to acknowledge, that any loss which may happen either to Body or Goods

Goods should take away the felicity of Man, when his mind enjoyes its Good, and its delight.

Of things composed of many parts the most noble gives the name, and law to the rest ; who then shall doubt the felicity of the whole Man, when the soul is happy ? So we pronounce a Republick happy, after a famous victory, notwithstanding the loss of some Citizens ; because her happiness proportions it self in the Person of the Prince or State, to whose good, and service, all the rest ought to apply themselves ; in so much, as that every private Souldier shall glorifie himself in his wounds, love them, and boast they were received for preservation of King and Commonwealth : shall we then allow the Body another fence, or desire, than what relates to the satisfaction of the Soul ? shall we so chain the Soul to the Body, as that her good shall be slave to the members, and depend upon them ? that the mind shall suffer, as they are well,

or ill disposed? If Nature would that the perfection of Man should depend in Body and Goods, she had given to all the same Body, and the same Goods: for they, making a part in their Nature, ought to be alike in all, and to pass from the Genus into the Individual; but having on the contrary, conferred them both in a very different condition, both for body and goods; she hath given to all an indifferent power to make good use of such Bodyes and goods as they have, that so the Action of the Soul may render it self as conspicuous and honourable, by one means, as another: And indeed, her Excellence shines more bright, and merits more praise, by how much, when destitute of such instruments, she of her self arrives at her proper End: as in my opinion, we ought better to esteem the Pilot, who through the rage of waves and tempest, can bring a leaky Vessel, unfurnished of Sail and Tackle, safe to the Port, than he who with a

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new tight Ship, well rigg'd for service, with a favourable Sea, and right gale a-poop. Let us then make this determination ; that since the felicity of man depends upon his Good, that his good is to live according to his Nature, and that to live according to his Nature, is not to be disturbed with Passions, and to behave himself upon all occasions with moderate Reason. We must (as necessary to our happiness) purge the Mind from Passions, and learn how to animate our selves against whatever may happen to us. Now that which can best instruct us in this way, and teach us the inclinations of a right spirit, and a will, governed by reason, is Prudence ; which is the beginning, and end of all Virtue : For that, making us exactly and truly to know the condition and quality of things objected to us, renders us fit to distinguish what is according to Nature, what is not ; what we ought to pursue, and what we ought to fly : She removes the erroneous opinions

that afflict us, restores our natural affections ; and in her Train follow all other Vertues, of which she is at once the Mother, Nurse, and Guardian. Oh ! the life of Man were happy, if alwaies conducted by this excellent guide. But alas ! by how much this Vertue is excellent, by so much is it rare ; and is in our minds, like the veins of Gold in the earth, found in few places. It is in my judgement, that great, magnificent, and impenetrable Buckler, forged by *Vulcan* for *Achilles* ; in which he carried the Heavens, the Earth, the Ocean, Clouds, Stars, Thunder, Cities, Armies, Assemblies and Battels, and to be short, what in this world is to be seen, thereby intimating to us, that knowledge renders the Soul of Man more invulnerable, than a large seven-fold sheild can do the body. But as *Achilles* went to the School of *Chiron* to make himself fit to bear this massy sheild ; so must you come to that of Philosophy to learn the use of Prudence ;

dence; which will teach you, that Prudence is to be exercised two waies; one to advance us to good, the other to repell evil. But as we bring not our minds pure to Philoſophy our Phyſitian, but rather prepoſſeſſed and contaminated with froward popular humours, we must like a ſkilful Chirurgion (who before he make any application to the wounded part, draws forth malignant humours) begin by purging our mind of all ſuch rebellious Paſſions, as by their smoak obnubilate the eye of Reaſon: otherwife the Precept of good manners, and ſound affections, is of no more advantage to the Soul, than abundance of food to a corrupt body, which the more you endeavour to nouriſh, you offend. We call that Paſſion, which is a violent motion of the Soul in her ſenſitive part, and makes her either apply her ſelf to what ſhe thinks is good, or recede from what ſhe takes to be ill: For though we have but one Soul, cause of life, and action

which is all in all, and all in every part, yet hath that one Soul very different agitations, even contrary to one another, according to the diversity of Vessels where she is retained, and the variety of objects presented to her : In one she hath her Encrease, in another her Motion, in a third her Sence, in a fourth her Memory, in a fift her Discourse ; as the Sun, who from one esience distributing his raies in diverse places, warms one, and illuminates another, melts wax, and dries the earth, dissipates clouds, and exhausts lakes, and marshes. When the Parts where she is inclosed, only keep and employ her to the proportion of their capacity, and the necessity of their right use, her effects are sweet, benigne and well governed ; but on the contrary, when they usurp more motion and heat than they should, they change and become more dangerous ; like the raies of the Sun, that wandering at their natural liberty, warm gently and faintly, but contracted

cted and united in the Concave of a glass, burn and consume, what they were wont to give life to, and nourish. Now Nature hath given this force and power (borrowed from the Soul) to the Senses, to apply themselves to things, to extract their forms, and as they are fit or unfit, harmonious or dissonant to Nature, to embrace or reject them : and that for these two Reasons ; One, that they should be as Centinels to the Body for its preservation ; the other (and the chiefest) to the end they should be as Messengers, and Carriers of the understanding, and sovereign part of the Soul ; and to serve as Ministers and Instruments of discourse and Reason. But in giving them this power, she hath also prescribed her Law and Command, which is to be satisfied with a careful observation and intelligence of what shall pass, without attempting to usurp the more high and eminent power, and so to put all things into alarm and confusion. For, as in

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an Army, the Centinels (oftentimes not knowing the design of their Commander) may be deceived, and take an enemy disguised, for a friend, or for enemies such as come to their relief; so the Sences, (not comprehending the whole sum of Reason) are oft abused by appearance, and take for advantageous, what is wholly against us: When upon this judgement, and without expecting the command of Reason, they come to disturb the Irascible and Concupiscale powers, they raise a sedition, and tumult in the Soul, during which, Reason is no more heard nor the understanding obeyed, than is the Law or Magistrate in a troubled estate of civil discord. Now in this Commotion, the Passions which disturb the peace of the mind, and mutiny against the Soul, make their first insurrection in the Concupiscale part, that is to say, in the place where the Soul exerciseth this faculty of desiring, or rejecting things offered to her, as they are proper, or contrary to her

her delight, or conservation. They move then according to the apperance of a Good or Ill. If it be a present good, and of which they enter into a present fruition, we call that Motion, Pleasure, or Delight : If it be of a good to come, from which we are far distant, we call it desire : if of a present Ill, of which we already resent the incommodeity and distaste, and which we lament in other men, we call it Hate or Horroure : if of any Ill we bewail in our selves, vexation : if this vexation be occasioned by what concerns us nearly, we call it Grief ; if by mischance in another, Pitty ; if occasioned by an apparent Good, in which we pretend to share, Jealousie ; if by good we have no part in, Envy : if occasioned by an Ill to come, we call it Fear.

This is the first body of Mutineers that disturb the peace of the Soul, whose effects (though very dangerous) are nevertheless much inferiour in violence to them that follow : For those

those first motions, formed in that part by the presented object, immediately shift thence into the irascible part, that is to say, into that part where the Soul seeks the means she hath to obtain, or shun what appears good or evil to her ; and there as a wheel already moving, by a new access of force, falls into a prompter speed ; so the Soul, already stirred with the first apprehension, and adding a second effort to the first, is hurried with more violence than before, and raises up Passions more powerful, and more difficult to tame, by how much they are doubly conjoyned to the former, implicating and corroborating one another by a mutual consent : for the first Passions, that are formed to the object of a seeming Good, falling into consideration of the means to atchieve it, either stir up in us Hope or Despair ; and such as are formed to the object of Ill, give birth to Fear and Anger : which four Passions are strangely strong and violent, and wholly subvert that Reason

son they find already shaken. These (in my opinion) are the winds that create the tempests of the Soul ; and the Cave whence they issue (as I have already told you) is an erring opinion, that things presented to us, are Good, or Evil : for attributing to them the quality they have not, we fly or pursue them with violence ; and thence spring our Passions. The way then to stop this Cave, is to secure the Peace of the Soul ; and that she be not swayed otherwise than she should , let us call to mind what hath been proved in the beginning of this discourse ; to wit, That the Good of man and the perfection of Nature, consist in a right disposition of his Will, to make use of things presented to him according to Reason ; and (on the contrary) his Ill, in a vicious and unbridled disposition to their abuse ; for with the first he shall create his advantage , receive satisfaction from whatever can happen to him, and establish for him-

himself a peace of mind, firm, and unmoved as a rock in the fury of the waves ; and with the second, every accident shall be distastful to him, and turn to his loss and affliction. When therefore any object shall present it self unto us (that we may not trouble our selves, as with a Good or Ill that pursues us) let us examine whether it be in our power, or no ; if it be in our power, it may be to us, either good or ill : But in this case, we ought by no means to be transported ; for in retaining the will perfect, we render it good, and preserve it so : if out of our power, 'tis to us, neither Good, nor Ill ; and consequently, we neither ought to seek nor avoid it. To approve, attempt, desire, and shun, and (in word) all our actions are in our own Power ; for the will hath power, and authority to govern, and steer them by Reason to the place where they ought to arrive for our good ; and to dispose our opinions to

to consent only to what they ought, and to that which stands examined by Sence and Reason ; to adhere to things evidently true, to suspend in what is doubtful, to reject what is false ; and so to govern the desire, that it only pursue what is natural, and only fly the contrary. Out of our power are our Bodyes, Estates, Reputations ; and (in a word) all that depend not on the Will ; and these, after what manner so ever they arrive, are never contrary to Nature ; because, happening either by the universal and continual order of things, and ordinary succession of Causes, we ought not to think them strange ; or if they happen by a particular Providence that compels them, we ought to know, that Nature hath subjected us to it : Moreover, that she hath given us a power in the Soul to comply with, and make good use of whatever may happen to us from without, shews, that she hath not only made us

us fit for any thing, but for all : insomuch, as we ought not to covet, or eschew any thing ; as well, because it is a foolish and vain affection to will what a man cannot do , as because in what manner soever it can happen to us, it may turn to our good , and may be the subject of worthy and honourable actions. Now, if we can prevail with our selves not to desire, or fly what is out of our reach, but with a temperate affection, entertain what accidents shall happen ; we shall be clear of all perturbation, free, and happy ; never frustrate in any design , never resisted in any enterprize ; we shall hate no man, complain of no man, fear no man , be angry with no man , for , no man can do us harm : If (on the contrary) we avoid, or pursue what is beyond our reach , we often stray from what we hope and wish, precipitate our selves into what we abhor, and fall into trouble and affliction.

ction. There is no man so ill advised as not to confess, that it is better to have, than be deprived of what he desires; to be free from passion, than to be afflicted with it: who then shall deny this Rule to be found and natural, by which we obtain whatever we desire, desiring nothing but what we can, and by which we afflict not our selves, but placing Good, or Ill in our own power, give our selves the One, and repell the other at our own choice? In all things, then, that are presented to us, (that we be not afflicted, or transported) we must immediately consider, whether they be in our power, or no; if they be, let us preserve a moderate will to guide, and conduct them to their true and natural use, and in so doing we shall obtain our good: If they be not, let us not disturb our selves, but have this necessary caution

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about us : This thing concerns me not, that is to say, tis neither my good, nor ill ; and consequently, I ought not to seek, or shun it ; but however it shall happen , fit my self to it , and apply it to the best use I can : If we find our selves transported beyond this, and that some of the above named Passions mutiny within us, by the object of things out of our Power, let us weigh the Nature of the thing presented, and to what end tis given us ; Then , examine what effects can derive from the passion to which we begin to encline ; and, in the next place seek out the opposite Virtue, and that power Nature hath given us to rule over it. For as Passion enters into us from without , and there enters with the Image of the offered Subject , so hath Nature man'd us within, against this assault, with a power to resist it, if we will use it

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to our defence : To fortifie which power, let us have some fair precepts, and short sentences concerning every Passion , by which we may sheild our Reason, and stop (as with a Trench) the first precipitate motions of the Soul, that would storm it ; To render which Precepts more strong, and hard to undermine, let us Garrison them with the beautiful Examples of such as have generously behaved themselves in the like Occasions ; for the example of Vertue in others, engages our own, and their Glory provokes us to Imitation : If any subiect then, for the delight of the Body, present it self ; (as luxuriant and delicate meats) as soon as we perceive our selves moved, let us call to mind, that they are not of the things in our Power , and consequently, neither our Good, nor Ill ; but things indifferent, that Nature hath given for our nourish-

ment, and of which the moderate use supports, and renders the Body a proper and fit instrument to the mind ; of which (on the Contrary) the Riot and Excess, produce great and malignat maladies, natural corrections of intemperance : If once we give reins to the Appetite, to follow plenty and delicacy, we shall be in perpetual trouble ; the minde will become slave to the Body, and we shall finde that we only live to eat. We must then allay this pleasure by a moderate use ; and learn to know, that sobriety preserves the Body sound, and the Intellect entire : Let us then prescribe our selves this Rule ; to use our meat for the necessity of nourishnient, and not to acoustome our selves to delicates ; least being deprived of them, our bodies become indisposed, and our spirits afflicted : but (on the contrary) to make use of plain and grossier meats,

meats, as well because they make us more strong and healthful, as because they are easie to be found; and tis a favour, we are obliged to thank Nature for, that she hath made the things necessary for life, easie to finde; and that those which are hard to get, are not necessary to us. Truly, I admire the saying of *Epicurus*, (though I could wish it had come from another's mouth, that so generous a saying might not have been soyled by the Effeminity of his other opinions) My heart (sayes he) is extasied with delight, and my Body springs with joy, that content with bread and water, I despise all other dainties: If *Epicurus* be so exalted, what should the Stoicks do? Ought they not to honour and reverence sobriety as the foundation of all other Vertues, and that which strangles Vices in their Cradle, and suffocates them in their feed? The *Curii*, and *Fabricii*

have obtained famous victories : but none so celebrated as their Frugality : well did their acts in arms, for a time, secure the Roman State from the forraign Enemy ; but their sobriety hath been a Law, in which they have moulded the minds and courages of them, who since have subdued all the world : the Figs and Carrots, which they preferred above the Samnites treasure, have proved of a better taste to posterity, than the delicates of *Apicius* in his time. The same reasons may serve to excess in Clothes, and Buildings, and such things as only respect the Bodies use ; for, if we moderate not the Content we there seek, by natural necessity, opinion will precipitate us where we shall neither find bottom nor shore : For example, we shall make our shoes of Velvet, next of Tisflue, and at the last of Embroidery with Pearl and Diamonds ; we shall build

build our houses of Marble, then of Jasper and Porphyry ; Let us, in this, observe this Rule, that our Clothes be sufficient to defend us from heat, and cold ; our Houses from winde and rain, without expecting any more from them ; but, if we find any thing we expect not, indifferently behave our selves. It should seem, the Reason hath more ado to defend it self from the pleasure we take in the sight and fruition of beautiful things, than of these we lately mentioned ; and that what bears in the face the bounty of Nature, printed in a rare and excellent Beauty, hath some legitimate power over us ; so that turning our eyes towards it , it there (in spite of us) turns and subjects our affections : But we should also remember tis a thing without us ; a Grace Nature hath bestowed on them that have it , not on us ; a thing, whose use, as soon, turns to

Ill, as Good ; and, above all, that it is but a flower that daily withers, and but the Colour of a fading body : If you suffer your selves to be transported with this Passion, what will you then be ? no more your selves : the body shall suffer a thousand pains in seeking your pleasure, and the minde a thousand hells in serving your delight, when this desire encreasing, shall become love, this love encreasing shall become fury : Let us then fortifie our selves against this Passion and take heed we fall not entangled with these baits : By how much this Passion wantons with us, by so much we ought to suspect her, and be, in good time, advised, that she would not embrace but to strangle us : propose licence and liberty, but to subject us ; feeds us not with honey, but to glut us with gall, and present us a minutes pleasure with everlasting repentance. Let us there-

therefore so compose our minds, as, that acknowledging in beauty the delicate hand of Nature, we should so prize it as we do the Sun and Moon for its Excellence : But if the Law allow us a more particular fruition, let it be to the end Nature desires, without losing the use of Reason, which should alwaies command in all things : and remember, that the immoderate use of this pleasure consumes the Body, softens the Soul and debilitates the Spirits : Let us not use it, if we can abstain, before Marriage : for besides the defacing of youthful modesty, it takes way those sweets of Marriage they find who never used it before (which is the Cement of conjugal friendship) and nourishes in us a licence to empty and unbridled lust ; but, above all, let us never do any base thing to obtain this Pleasure, but summon before us the inconveniences many have proved who

who have surrendered themselves unto it ; of which some have embezled their estates , others lost their lives, others their understandings : and (on the contrary) call to mind, how much greater a conquest it is to overcome sensuality, than possess it ; and that the contingency of *Alexander* hath proved of a better reputation to Posterity , than the beautiful and excellent faces of the wife and daughters of *Darius*. *Cleopatra*'s eyes triumphed over *Cæsar*, and *Anthony* ; and those of *Augustus* over *Cleopatra* : and though this kind of pleasure may be accompanied with a certain itch that takes the Body, and, in that, appears something natural ; Yet the thirst of Riches and Honour, and the delight we took in their possession, hath no other root than Opinion. I know not who hath thus abused us by the imposition of names, by calling that Good, which depends

depends not upon us ; but he hath fastened our happiness to a rotten Cable, and Anchored our felicity in a quicksand : For what is there in this world so uncertain and inconstant, as the Possession of such Goods as go and come , pass and slide away like a torrent ? like a torrent they come with a rushing noise, are full of violence and trouble ; their entrance is offensive, they asswage in a minute ; and when they are fallen away, nothing but mud in the bottom, remains. O Riches ! could we as well see the rust of afflictions that you breed in the hearts of men, as the beauty and splendour of your Gold and Silver, you would then be as much hated, as you are now beloved : and those that love you, have only this vertue, to conceal their affliction, that they may not discover their shame ; but if their Society had leave to complain, how could fortune answer

swer all the Objections made by so many, to whom she hath given so many mischiefs, under the title of goods? sure by no other excuse than this, she only gave them to such as were greedy of them. Let us understand then Riches for such as they are; for present things Fortune only lends us for Goods only familiar with wicked men; for Goods that are only so when they have a vertuous disposer; for Goods that often pervert good, but never correct ill manners; for Goods without which many wise men have spun out a happy life; and for Goods with which so many wicked men have fallen under an unfortunate Death. Now let us know what gives us this unruly desire of having. 'Tis a Gangrene in the soul, that with a poysonous heat consumes our natural affections to supply their room with virulent humours; which are no sooner lodg-
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ed in the heart than that the honest and natural affection we owe to our Parents, to our Friends, and to our selves, flyes from us ; all things, compared to Profit, are of no value with us ; and, lastly, for these Goods, we neglect our selves, our Bodies, and our minds ; and, with the Proverb, Sell the horse to buy hay : Nature in the Creation of Gold seems to have presaged the misery of her Lovers, by making the place where it grows barren of hearbs, plants and flowers, or other things of use ; intimating thereby, that, in the minds where the desire of this mettle shall take birth, no sparks of honour or vertue shall remain. Let us then banish far from us this furious desire, and leaving the sottish oppinion of the vulgar, (who weigh our good in a Goldsmiths ballance) follow the advice of Nature, who measures it by the Ell of Necessity : she will inform us,

us, that good no more proceeds from Riches, than the warmth we feel from our clothes, which breathing from our selves is retained by them; what evaporates not to them remains in our selves; and though Fortune clip the wings of Vertue, she shall suffer no decrease; but, having less motion, enjoy more repose and satisfaction. Some there are who would corrupt our peace with soft opinions, and harness our endeavours to the acquisition of wealth; persuading, that if we lay not up a stock of Riches, we shall have no power to help our friends or Country: but let us wisely Answer, that every one ought to serve the Republick of his own Trade; that of the Philosopher, is to render Citizens modest and obedient; which done, hath he not obliged his friends and Country? moreover, I will say, point me out an honest way of enriching my self, and I am fit to take

take it : for, as I am not Covetous of wealth, I abhor it not ; but if you cannot so direct me, why do you press me to an unlawful Course? Let us learn to seek, without passion, the thing that nature desires ; and we shall find that Fortune can never deprive us of it : the true and nearest way to enrich a mans self, is to despise Riches : to be rich, is not to encrease our substance, but to lesslen our desires ; to be Content, is to be rich ; and this Riches any man, that will, may give himself : So *Eias* made himself rich, abandoning the Goods (which by composition with the enemy) he was permitted to carry away, and saying , he carryed all his Goods with him, which was his Virtue : so, *Diogenes* not only became wealthy, but greater than *Alexander* , when he refused his money, and, instead of that, only desired him to remove from betwixt him and his

Sun :

Sun: and it is almost the same case with them that offer us the Goods of Fortune, for they take from us those of Nature; and this we evidently see in such as suffer themselves to be allured by the thing we call Honour, and carried away by the wind of Ambition; who soon find, they have nothing but Clouds of smoak, instead of the Suns brightness.

True Honour is the report of a good and vertuous Action, issuing from the Conscience into the Discovery of the People with whom we live; and which (by a reflection in our selves) gives us a testimony of what others believe of us, and to the mind becomes a great satisfaction. Now this depends upon our selves: and nature hath so al-layed this Good to us, that when or how oft soever we will, we have it; which if we abandon, we embrace the shadow for the body, and tye

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the peace of cur minds to vulgar opinion ; we voluntarily renounce our own liberty to follow the Pas- sions of others, compell our selves offensively to our selves, to please our lookers on ; our afiections are hung upon another's Eyes, and we love vertue no longer , than she affects the vulgar : if we do good, 'tis not for the love of Vertue, but our vain-glory and honour : we are like pierced Hogsheads , whence nothing is to be drawn without vent. But what bounds this Pas- sion ? doth age mature it ? no ; do dignities satisfie it ? no ; 'Tis a Gulf without bottom, or shore ; the *vacuum* , Philosophers have not yet found out in Nature ; and a fire, augmented by the supply of fewel. Such as would flatter Ambition, would have her thought to serve as a step to vertue because (say they) for Ambition we quit the other vices ; and, at the last, Am-

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bition it self, for the love of virtue : but if Ambition cloak the other vices, she will not dismiss them for that consideration, but rather rake them for a while under the deceiving embers of a malitious dissimulation , in hope to fire them on a sudden when they have got authority enough to make them rule in Publick , without fear of punishment. Serpents lose not their venome by being benummed in the cold ; nor ambitious men, their vices, by disguising them in a cold dissimulation ; but arrived at their pitch , make themselves felt for what they are : and though Ambition should quit all other vices, yet would she never forsake her self ; just only in this, that she is sufficient for her own punishment, and commits her self to the rack. *Ixion's* wheel is the motion of desires, which turn and return continually from above to below, allowing no repose

repose to the mind. Let us then fix our Souls against this troublesome motion, that so disturbs our peace ; and so moderate our affections, that the luster of Honour dazzle not our Reason ; and plant our minds with good resolutions for a breast-work against the assaults of Ambition : Let us first satisfie our selves that there is no true honour in the world, but that of Virtue ; and that Virtue desires no larger, nor more eminent Theatrer to present her self to mens Eyes upon, than her own conscience. The higher the Sun is got, the less shadow he casts ; and the greater vertue is, the less glory it seeks : Glory like a shadow, pursues such as fly it, and flyes such as pursue it. Let us imagine we come into the world, as into a Comedy where we are not to choose the Person we must represent, but perform well the part that is given us. If the

Poet present us in the person of a King, we must discharge it like a King ; if of a Porter, like a Porter ; for there is honour in well performing the one and the other in their kind ; and disgrace in doing either ill. We must use hencours as we do dishes at a Feast, where we only make bold with such as are placed near unto us, without reaching over the Table and snatching them from the entertainers hands : If the testimony of our Vertue, the benefit of our Country, or the favour of our Friends, present us a charge of which we are capable , let us accept it modestly , and exercise it faithfully, supposing, that God hath placed us Centinels, to the end that others should rest secure under our care, and expect no other recompence of our labours, than the conscience of well-doing ; and rather desire, to have that testimony graven in the hearts of our Citizens, than

than in the fronts of Publick Edifices. 'Tis sometimes a greater honour to fail of the reward of merit, than to receive it; 'Tis more honourable for me (sayes *Cato*) that every one should ask, why my statue is not erected in the Palace, than why it is. To be short, let us take it for a Maxime that the fruit of worthy Actions, is, to have done them; and that vertue, out of her self, can find no recompence worthy of her; without doubt Ambition is a ravishing Passion, easily gliding into the most generous minds, but making an unwilling retreat: we think we ought to embrace good: and amongst the things we call Good, we have the highest esteem of Honour, which makes us so violently pursue it: But assure your selves, that the other Passions, bred in us by the object of an apparent Ill we fly and abhor, sink deeper into the heart, and rise

thence with more difficulty; as fear, that is, the apprehension of an ill to come, which continually possesses the brain, and fore-runs the threatened mishaps of Fortune. And certainly, Fear is one of the rudest instruments with which Opinion torments us: for, as she can effect nothing but by deceiving and seducing us, and that we better discern in things present, than to come, she serves her turn by the future, there shrowds her self, as in a dark and obscure place, and chooses a season, like Thieves in the night, to assault us, without being known; then, she torments us with wizards of ills that have only a simple possibility, and nothing in themselves to hurt us, but our own apprehensions, which render to us ill, what is not, and extract affliction even from our Good it self. How many do we daily see, who, by fearing to be miserable, become so, and turn

turn their vain fears into certain miseries? how many have lost their friends by diffidence, and how many fallen sick by conceit? so that we may say of Fear, 'its an over-charging weight that bows us to fall into what we avoid the most we can. Let us banish Fear, and we banish mischance, at least we feel it not before it touch us, and then it shall never be so troublesome as to make us fear it. If it were in our choice to be proof against any one Passion, there is none (in my opinion) we ought sooner to shun than Fear; because of the rest, the affliction lasts no longer than the Cause; but Fear paints its self indifferently from what is, and from what is not; from what may be, and will not; and even from what cannot be at all: O ingenious Passion! that from an imaginary ill, extracts a true and lively Grief! like the Painter *Par-*

rhasius, who tormented his hindes, the better, by them, to express the miserable and sorrowful Postures of fabulous *Prometheus*. Why are we so ambitious in our ills, as to forerun, and outstrip them by imagination! Let us have the patience to expect them, and, possibly, they may not reach us; for a thousand accidents, not to be foreseen, may divert the blow we fear: our fears are as oft deceived as our hopes. And what is it we fear? a thing within our power? no, for then we may help it; is it then a thing out of our power? and why, because it is no ill? In what then can this fear avail us, but in a voluntary affliction? on the contrary, if we can confirm our minds against this Passion, we shall remedy many things our surprize and amazement make worse, and throw upon us. Among the many dangerous effects of Fear, I esteem it the most pernicious, that

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she, commonly, makes us hate the thing we fear ; and Hatred is a peevish Passion that strangely afflicts us. Do but observe, when we once conceive a hatred against any one thing, how this affection nourishes it self within us, how it grows up without planting, or watering, making us to abhor the thing we hate. And what do we hate? truly nothing we ought to hate ; for if there be any thing to be hated in this world, it is Hatred it self, and such other Passions as are contrary to the nature of what should govern in us. There is nothing in this world, of ill for us, but this; we hate Men, and business, either because we fear ill, or think we have received it ; or because the nature of our Sences hath a kind of contrariety and anti-passion to the hated thing. What can more torment us than this? by such a Passion, we give those we hate a power to vex and afflict us : the Sight stirs up

up our Sences, the remembrance provokes the mind, and sleeping and waking we present it to our selves, with a spite and anxiety, that put us beside our selves, tear and gall the heart; and by this means we take into our bosomes the effects of an ill we wish to another. Let us then shut the door of the soul against this tormenting Passion, and (that we may take from it all pretence of entring into us, by the dislike of things presented) propose to our selves in good time a true rule; which is, that all things have two handles by which they are to be taken; if we grasp them by the one, they appear to us heavy and insufferable; if by the other, light and easie to be borne. Nature may say to us, as the Philosopher did to his Disciples, What I present you with the right hand, you receive with the left; you always choose the worst; what is good you leave, and only

only take what is ill. For example, you have a neighbour with whom you are in suit ; when you would think of this Neighbour, you call to mind your Process, blame and curse him upon this occasion ; and this is the wrong handle ; take him by the other, and remember that he is a Man as you are ; that God hath linked you together in affection by the resemblance of your Nature ; that he is your fellow-Citizen, free to the same Laws, the same Temples, the same Altars, the same Sacrifices ; that you are Neighbours obliged by charity to help and assist one another ; and will not then so many subjects of good will extinguish one little spark of Hatred ? you have a brother hath offended you ; when you think of him, you think of him as of your offender, and not as of him conceived in the same womb, nourished with the same milk, brought up under the same roof,

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and that ought to be the half of you : Take then things by the right handle , and we shall find something to love in every thing we hate : For there is nothing in the world that may not be for the good of man. If there be any thing of vice in the person we hate , 'tis that vicious Persons ill and none of ours ; and if Peradventure he offend us , we have more reason to lament , than hate him , for he is the first offended ; and receives the first and greatest disadvantage , because in this he loses the use of Reason ; and what greater loss can a man sustain ? Let us then in such accidents , convert Hatred into Pitty , and endeavour to render such as would hate us , worthy to be beloved themselves : So *Lycurgus* , when they had abandoned to his revenge him who had put out his eye , took him home , and the punishment he inflicted , was sedulous instructions to virtue ; after

ter which, the Offender being restored to his People, was by them from a rash and injurious, found become a good, honest and modest Citizen. As we fly Hatred, so we ought to avoid Envy, Sisters of the same complexion and shape, and whose effects are equally pernicious: For Envy stirs up in us a pining at the good another doth possess; that gnaws the heart to our continual torment. Certainly a miserable Passion; and such a one, whose cruelty all the Racks of the most ingenious and inventive Tyrants have never out-done: for since she turns the good of another to her own ill, what end can she have of her affliction, when her ills and the good of others are together chained to her torture? Let us fly it like a Savage beast, that would gore our hearts, and rob us of the enjoyment of what Good soever may happen to us: for whilst the Envious, pining,
look

look awry at the good of another, they neglect and lose the pleasure of their own. But to lessen this Envy, if we well consider what we esteem Good, and what we envy in others, we shall find, that taken all together, there is nothing we would wish our own: For I perceive, that for the most part we envy men their Wealth, Honours and Favour; when we should refuse any man that would offer us the same at the same rate: to purchase which you must flatter, submit to affronts and injuries, and lose your liberty; for a man hath nothing for nothing in this world. You pretend to Honour and Virtue, which are not to be purchased, but by the loss of such other things as are acquired by a shameful patience. Riches, Dignities and Favour are only conferred upon such as comply, and conform themselves to another's Passion: This is the law, at least the custom of the world, and

and was so before you were born ; why then should it trouble you to see it observed ? Such a one sells his liberty for an Estate or Office ; why do you envy him ? you that would not make sale of yours, could be content to have the cloth and the money, and receive the exchange he makes of his liberty, preserving your own : which is against common equity ; either choose the merchandise or the price : and let us take heed (if we desire any peace in this life) of repining at what we esteem anothers Good : If it be a true Good befall him, we should rejoice, for we ought to desire the good of one another : To be pleased with anothers good, is to increase our own. The same Rule we ought to observe in Jealousie ; for that hath a resemblance to Envy, both in Nature and effect ; only Envy seems but to consider Good in what befalls another, and Jealousie in what we our selves possess,

possess, and in which we doubt another hath a share. This is a fond and foolish passion; the Gall that corrupts the honey of this life; which usually crowds her self into the sweetest and most delightful actions, rendring them so sowre and bitter as nothing more; she turns Love into Hatred, respect into disdain, and assurance into mistrust. Therefore make accompt, that whosoever shall live jealous, shall live miserable. The only way to avoid it, is to render a mans self worthy of the thing he desires; for Jealousie is nothing but a mans diffidence of himself, and a testimony of little merit; It was in my opinion a generous answer of the Emperor *Aurelius* to *Faustinus*, who asked him what he would do, if *Cassius* who fought against him, should win the battail? I serve not the Gods sayes he, so ill, that they should reward me with so great a mis-

misfortune. Let him that fears to lose an interest in another, say the same, I honour not his friendship so little ; that he should withdraw it from me. The confidence of a mans own desert, is a great engagement to another's will ; for who pursues any thing virtuously, is glad of a Companion in his adventure, that may serve to the relief and renown of his merit : Imbecillity only fears the encounter ; because she thinks that contending with another, her own imperfection may be sooner seen. Who would run alone to the Olympick games ? take away Emulation, and you take away glory, and the Spur of virtue. 'Tis of great consequence, that all things that are in others even serve us to Good or Ill, according as we are dispos'd to receive and use them. Another's good gives us Jealousie, and another's ill affects us with pitty, and sometimes to such a proportion, as puts us be-

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side our selves, and deprives us of judgement: whether it be by a secret consent that we share one anothers ills, or that we fear our selves what is already happened to our Neighbour; whatsoever it is, we sigh and suffer with him; and it is good to do so upon every occasion the better to awake us to their succour and assistance; For the Law of Humanity commands it, but not to adopt their griefs, nor with their clouds to overcast the serenity of our own minds. Now the necessary remedies for this offence that we take at anothers mishap and call Pitty, are the same for the other vexation we call Grief, which is the fence of a pretended ill in our selves. For those we call ills, being arrived, immediately (if we take not present heed) flag the Soul to a strange drooping negligence and discouragement, which take from us the use of discourse, and render us unfit for the provision of our private affairs.

affairs. 'Tis in this condition, that we especially ought to remember our selves of what is in our power, and esteem nothing ill which is not absolutely contrary to the disposition of the will : for by this means we shall find that Pleasure and Grief are drawn from the same source, and that it is nothing but the manner of turning the bucket that fills it with the one or the other. We render then all things good or ill by the use ; we render Riches ill, when by them we serve our selves to the execution of wicked Passions ; we render Poverty good, when we accompany it with Frugality and Patience ; we render ease and rest miserable when we become slothful and unmanly ; and we make pains and labour sweet, when thereby we acquire the reputation of serving our Country. Then let us take all things as we ought, and we may make our advantage of every thing : for there is not an accident

can happen for which Nature hath not prepared in us an Habitude to receive and turn it to our content. In all things then that usually afflict us, we must consider two things: first the Nature of the thing happened; secondy, the Nature of what we have within us: and by this means using things according to Nature, we can never be capable of any offence. For Vexation being a malady of the Soul, and contrary to Nature, we ought not to permit it a possession in us. That which most offends us is the novelty of the accident; which we evidently perceive in that the most adverse things are rendred sweet by custome. Slaves blubber when they first enter the Gally, but in three months sing at the Oar; and raw Sea-men are pale when they weigh Anchor though in a calm, when Sailors laugh in a storm; Custom is all. But the effects that Custom works in the Vulgar, that meditation supplies

supplies in the Philosopher ; for by mature consideration we render things familiar and indifferent to us. Let us then exactly weigh the Nature of whatever can offend us, and represent to our selves the ugliest face of malicious and insupportable mis-haps , as Diseases, Poverty, Banishment and Injuries, and examine in all these what is according or contrary to Nature. The Body is diseased, 'tis not we that are offended, but the body ; for the offence lessens by the excellency of the things perfection, and Sicknes may administer an occasion of Patience and Fortitude, much more commendable than Health it self. Where there is a greater occasion of praise, is there less of good ? by how much the mind is more considerable than the body, by so much the goods of the one are greater than those of the other. If the body be but the instrument of the mind, who shall complain when the

instrument submits it self to the service of him it is destined to? The body is sick, that's no news ; since from its composition it is subject to change. I but the pains of diseases make themselves felt, and force us to roar out in spite of the best Philosophy we have : They make themselves felt (I confess) but only felt as to the body, and only make us cry out if we will ; for pain is only intolerable to them that think it so ; and there are, who support it in its most bitter pangs. *Possidonius* discoursing in *Pompey's* presence was surprized with a violent fit of the Gout, which in spite of its importunity he concealed, pursuing his discourse without any look or action to confess it. Pray tell me what new remedies had this Philosopher found out against this pain ? what Sear-cloths ? what Unguents against this Gout ? only the knowledge of things and the resolution of his mind. To what purpose were the Body ordain-ed

ed to serve the Soul, when if the Soul were afflicted with the bodies accidents, she would become slave to it? and if we ought not to be afflicted with what befalls the body, by how much less at what concerns our goods? For the loss of them is nothing so sensible as the loss of health: They are both without us, but the body is the nearer of the two. Man comes naked into the world, and naked returns; can he then call any thing his, he neither brings nor can carry away? Earthly goods are like movables in an Inn, which we ought to regard no longer than there we stay. I but (some may object and say) losing them I shall perish for want of food: If this care afflict your mind, you were better desire to starve with a calmness in the Soul, than live rich in perturbation & trouble. You must make account, that the losses you sustain are the price of your peace and satisfaction: if you esteem them

so, you can never lose them ; if not, you lose both goods and mind at once. Will you know how easie these wounds are to cure ? See then the honoured scars of such wounds received, and closed up by the greatest and most generous Persons, who have laught and given God thanks for such petty losses. Hear *Zeno*, who said, the winds were favourable that day he suffered shipwrack, for they cast him upon the shore of Philosophy where he past the rest of his life in peace and tranquillity, free from civil tempests and the importunate troubles that attend such as are busied in publick affairs. Will you know how losses may be supported ? habituate your selves to love things for what they are : if you have an Earthen Platter, esteem it as an Earthen platter that may be broken, and you will not be angry when it is broken. So pass from the least things to the greatest ; from the vilest, to them

them of highest price, and do the same. If you love your Children, love them as men subject to Death ; and when they come to dye, you will neither be surprized nor troubled. Opinion oft afflicts us more than the thing it self ; and Opinion receives its bulk and stature from the terms we use in accidents that befall us ; for we call one thing by the name of another, and fancy such a thing like such a thing : so much do Images and Ideas possies us. Let us then sweeten our terms the best we can : If one of our Children dye, let us not say we have lost, but restored a Child to God that lent him ; and so of any other loss. If peradventure we meet an outrage by a wicked person that spoils us of our goods, let us immediately deliberate thus in our selves, How doth that man in himself do me harm by whom God takes back what he had only lent ? In the rest, observe what judgement you make of

of such losſes as thoſe you ſuffer, when they happen to another ; and conſider how much you in the ſame condition were moved, when notwithstanding, you ſhould blame, and reproach their complaints : think that the ſentence you have paſſed upon them is a prejudice againſt your ſelf which you cannot renounce : The judgement we make in anotherſ cause is alwaies more juſt than that we make in our own. If our Neighboors boy break him a glaſs, you on- ly ſay there is a glaſs broken : if his Son dye, why, he was mortal : why do you not ſo by your own, without crying, and raging, and accuſing gods and men for a thing of course ? The thing you foreſaw is come to paſſ, what ſhould amaze you ? For my part, I think we foreſee as muſh as we ought, and may ſo far, as not to be aſtoniſhed at any thing, principally the things we call injuries ; For let us lay before us what have been, are,

are, and ought to be the manners and humours of persons with whom we converse in this world, and we shall soon resolve to suffer much from their indiscretion. The common race of men are so inclined that they delight in mischief, and only by the disdain and oppression of others measure their own greatness ; so few are they that delight in well doing. Let us then make account, that which way soever we turn we shall meet some to offend us, and encounter injuries wherever there are men : But that they surprize us not, let us stand upon our guard expecting their attempts. Into what place soever we go, or whatever we undertake, we must consider, how in that place, or that affair we shall be entertained : Will you go to the Baths ? consider what you must there expect : One whoops, another pushes, a third dashes water, a fourth steals a cloak ; if we have foreseen, we shall but

laugh

laugh at these inconveniences when they happen. We make an address to a great Person; expect beforehand that he will make us wait ; that when we would enter we shall be locked out, and find him so busie as not to be spoke with, or when he is, that we shall be scornfully received, and we shall neither wonder nor be angry when all this shall happen.

There is yet another thing that serves much for the moderation of offences ; which is, when we our selves excuse the Person offending by a presumption they might casually commit them : for example, if you call your servant, and he answer not, you must suppose, he did not hear you ; he hath not been where you commanded him, suppose he had not leisure and the like : but chiefly in matters of injury , we should serve our selves with the advantage they present : For injuries are like poysonous plants ; of which none are so malignant

malignant, which by allayes and proper application may not be made of wholesome use. From injuries we have at the least two kinds of advantage; one that we know the offenders to avoid them; the other, that they discover to us our own weakness; where we are to be assaulted, that we may fortifie that place: insomuch, that when you meet a Person that depraves you, he is to be concluded a malicious fellow uncapable of trust: then examine whether the report he blemishes you with all be true wholly or in part, and correct that fault lest you give occasion to another for the same or a worse character. What fairer revenge can a man take of his Enemy, than to convert his injuries to his own advantage? But the best protection, and securest Rampire we can have against such accidents, is this determination; that we can receive no harm but by our selves; and that we are

are invulnerable whilst our Reason stands in her true condition. And therefore let us say with *Socrates*, *Anitus* and *Melitus* may put me to death, bnt they can never do me harm. Whoever is fortified against humane injuries, is prepared for banishment, which usually happens to the most vertuous by the injury of malevolent men: but since it is a face of ill with which Opinion stupifies the mind, and helps to contract this acrimony of perturbation and sorrow, let us consider it apart, and examine, if it be so troublesome at hand as it appears at distance. Who tells us, that we are born to live only in one place? what greater displeasure can we receive than to be so confin'd? Seek throughout all the Cities of the world, number the Inhabitants, how many are Naturals of each place, and you will find, that the greater part of men are voluntarily banished their own clime. All the world is a wise

wise mans Country, or rather no one spot of earth, any mans Heaven, whither he aspires, is his Country ; only he takes a Pilgrimage here below, and stayes in Cities, and Provinces, as in an Inn ; ten or twelve leagues of earth bound our sight ; but the face of the vast Heaven illustrated with so many beautiful stars, discovers it self wholly to us by a continued revolution. Why should we then with so much reluctancy part with the little place of our birth ? it was in our Mothers choice, to lye-in elsewhere, and make us change our Country : therefore considering the chance of being born here, or there, the parting with this or that place should not so much concern us. *Pompey* perceiving the faint courages of his Romans at the battail of *Pharsalia*, who had their eyes and minds retreated to the walls of *Rome*, bewailing their houses, and sighing, as if banished their Country ; Friends,

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said he, a good mans Country is the place of his liberty. *Rutilius* made that appear to *Sylla*, who being called back from exile, would never return to *Rome*, but had rather suffer the wilderness and solitude of a strange Island, than the face of a Tyrant in his native City. All Climats nourish men, all Lands bear them kindred ; for Nature hath allyed us All in Charity and blood. Every soil produces friends to vertue, who contracts them of her self. What have we then to bewail in shifting our abode ? the same Heaven, the same Elements remain : by Banishment we lose nothing, if the courage be preserved entire. If you could resolve upon what I have proposed for the eschewing these first Passions, it were enough ; and I should not need a further discourse to prepare you for the rest : for if you never receive into you such as take birth in the **Concupiscent**, you shall never be attach-

ed

ed by such as are formed in the Irascible part ; for as much as these, which are Hope and Despair, Fear and Anger, swell and move not in the Heart till after Desire and Vexation are formed in us ; As the first we mentioned take birth by the application of the object, and the Opinion we have, that it is favourable to us, or adverse ; so the second derive from the consideration, and diligent search the Soul makes for the means she hath to obtain, or avoid what she desires or shuns. It is no other than a motion as it were of the Soul out of her self, made by the reinforcement of the first Passion ; and therefore like a fire, which the more it is kindled is the harder to be quenched : For they immediately possess themselves of the greatest part of the Soul, and give a threwd shock to her strongest powers. Now to secure us, let us know the most troublesome accidents by their

F Names

Names and Liveries. For the first which is hope, sweetly fanning our fond desires, kindles in our minds a fire full of thick smoak that choaks the understanding, carryes away our thoughts, hangs them in the cleuds, deprives us of judgement and makes us dream waking; whilst our hopes continue, we never part with our desires. On the contrary, when Despair is lodged within us, it doth so torment our minds with the Opinion that we cannot obtain what we desire, that all must give place to it, and we must lose all the rest for the love of that we think we shall never obtain. This is a Passion like that in little Children, who in pett when one of their Shuttle-cocks is taken away, throw the rest in the fire: 'Tis a Passion angry with her self, and that from her self exacts the penance of her own misfortune. The way to secure us from such Passions, is to subdue our desires

fires in their infancy ; if they be ill, not to permit them to arrive at a greater pitch ; if good, to moderate and mould them into a sweet and quiet affection without expecting from the future a greater favour than the nature of the thing and the inconstancy of Fortune will permit ; alwaies ballancing what we hope for with what we fear : for a wise man ought to live no more in hope than fear ; nor put it into the power of Event, to take any thing from, or add any thing to his felicity. Neither ought a man to despair of any thing, as well because his desires should be bounded by his power, as because the uncertainty of things equally exalts the desperate, and overthrows the hopeful.

For what concerns Fear, which is a violent alarm, that makes the Soul retire into, and war with her self, that she cannot see the means to avoid the present Perill ; 'Tis a dan-

gerous Passion, for besides the ter-
reour it brings, it seizes us with such
an astonishment as deprives us of our
discourse, and even fence it self; our
eyes are open and see not; Men
speak to us, and we observe not; but
would fly, and we cannot go; It is
indeed begot by a certain disposition
in Nature, but much advanced by
the delicacy of Education: For not
having from our youth been brought
up to pains and labour, we apprehend
things without all reason. To
arm our selves therefore against
them, we must have recourse to Pru-
dence, by whose instruction we shall
know the nature of things, in which
we shall finde nothing that ought to
amaze us. Let us pull from them
the vizard of Opinion, and we shall
discover Nature throughout pure
and friendly to us, and withall inure
our selves beforehand to what may
terrifie us; present to our selves the
most dreadful dangers into which
we

we may fall, and out of a gayetie of heart, sometimes tenipt hazards to effay our Courage. To forerun mis-adventure, is to disarm Fortune ; and 'tis much more easie for us to resist, when we assault her, than when we only defend ; for we have then leisure to occoultre our selves, we take our best advantage and provide for our retreat ; whereas when she assaults she surprizes and takes us in what posture she will. We must then in assaulting, learn to defend, and often give our selves false alarms, propose to our selves the dangers many Great Persons have run through ; and call to mind, how some have avoided the greatest by a noble security, when others have perished in the least for want of resolution. But above all, we must dispose our selves from the apprehension of Death, even when it presents it self ; for that is the common object that disturbs the understanding, deprives us of

judgement, makes us abandon all office and duty, and forget our selves. O could we make this Conquest of our selves, Death it self would not astonish us, and we should then be happy ! In this encounter, especially Opinion bandies with Reason to fright it from us with the Vizard of Death : and though there be but one death in this world, presents that One in infinite shapes to our Imagination. Death certainly hath nothing of formidable in it, but we have sent forth cowardly and corrupt spies to discover it, who report not to us what they have seen, but what they have heard and fear : We rely upon the Vulgar inconsideration that delivers it in the quality of a great evil ; and distrust Philosophy, which informs us that it is the door of life. Let us believe *Socrates* and we shall no longer fear it ; Let us believe *Cato*, and we shall prevent it ; Let us believe *Arria* the wife

wife of *Petus* dying to bear her husband company, that their loves being united by so sacred and chaste a tye, might suffer no separation, who after the first stab in her own bosome, *Petus*, said she, it hurts me not, declaring thereby to the true understander, that Death is no Ill, but the end of all theirs that dye. How should it be ill since it is natural, or grievous since tis common? The contempt of Death is the true and living Source of all worthy and generous actions; thence are derived the brave and free sayings of Virtue, pronounced in the voyces of so many honourable Persons. Twas this spirit that possessed *Demetrius*, when he answered *Nero* who threatned his death, Nature will do as much for thee. This was the ground work of the invincible resolution of *Helvidius Priscus* against *Vespasian*: *Vespasian* commanded him to absent himself from the Senate, who answered,

That it was in his power to cut him off from the number of Senators ; but whilst he continued one , he would appear in the Senate : He sent him then word, if he came, to hold his peace ; Let no man then said he, ask my opinion : I but sayes the Emperour, I must consult him in Honour; then replyed *Helvidius*, I must answer in Conscience : If thou dost, I will put thee to death ; Why, answered the other, did I ever tell you I was inmortal ? you may do what you will, and I will do what I ought ; it is in your power to make me dye, and in mine to dye constantly. A generous saying, and worthy the ears of all such as are obliged to defend Justice and Reason against Violence and Oppression ! O lively Image of Constancy ! Thou art a brave and illustrious example to all that shall succeed thee. Whosoever shall set themselves to imitate the lives of such Persons, shall never have a heart fur-

surprized with apprehension, but rather with an unconquered spirit run through flames of fire to Vertue and Honour. But avoiding Fear we must take heed of falling into Anger, which is opposite to it, and takes up the other extremity: For whereas Fear retires us into, Anger crowds us out of our selves, and seeking means to repell the mischance that threatens, or hath already attached us, makes the blood boil in the heart, and raises furious vapours in the mind, which hud-wink and precipitate us to whatsoever may satisfie the thirst of vengeance. That which most tickles us in this Passion is the seeming Justice, and that it seems to excuse it self by the malice of another. We ought not however to entertain it; for to commit the correction of an offence to Anger, were to punish Vice by it self. Reason (which should govern) will admit no such officers as execute at their own licence without

out her authority : to her violence is improper, who will (like Nature) do all by the Compass : She conceives that such violent motions only proceed from the imbecillity of such as have them ; who like children and old men, trip and run, when they think to walk. But you will say, what ! shall Vertue see the insolence of Vice without regret ? will you allow her so little liberty , as not to dare to be angry at wicked men ? Vertue will entertain no undecent liberty ; she must not be valiant against her self, nor kindle her own affliction at anothers Vice. A wise-man ought as well to support the injuries of wicked men without Anger, as their Prosperity without Envy : He must suffer the temerity of inconsiderate men , with the same Patience that a Physitian doth the injuries of a Phrenetick Patient. There is no greater, nor more profitable wisdome, than to endure ano-
thers

thers folly : For otherwise by not enduring it in others, we make it our own : first, we lose our judgement, then offend our selves, and stimulated with choler, are thrown headlong into the Ill we shun. This Passion properly resembles great ruines, which break themselves upon that which arrests their fall : she so impetuously desires another's harm, that she neglects the evasion of her own, and beside that she is rash, is usually unjust ; for to speak truth, Injury and Revenge are no other, than the same sin under diverse excuses : they both have the same end which is another's harm. Let us then carefully obstruct its passage into the Soul ; and to that purpose, so soon as any thing piques us, give our selves leisure to pause : for, if we can once discover, we shall easily stop the progress of this fever of the mind : Let us consider the indecency of wrathful actions ; and on the contrary, how

how graceful sweetnes and clemency are ; as pleasing to others, as profitable to our selves : They are the Lovers that Court, and attract unto us the hearts and inclinations of mankind. Let us accustom our selves to forgive all the world ; and (leaff the quality of the offence detain us) take it for granted, that the greater the injury is, the more worthy to be pardoned ; and that the juster vengeance is, the more laudable is Clemency. But those whom fortune hath seated in a more eminent degree of honour, ought especially to preserve their inclinations entire and temperate ; for as their actions are more important, their faults are harder to repair : The Heavens present them every day an Example, and teach them to avoid precipitation by Saturn, who though the highest of all the Planets, is the slowest of motion : They say too of Jupiter that he can of himself dart favourable

ble and propitious bolts, but must have the Counsel & assistance of the twelve gods when he would throw those of danger and vengeance. 'Tis a great accompt, that the greatest of the gods, who of himself can benefit the whole world, can destroy none without solemn deliberation: The wisdom of *Jupiter* himself is so wary of mistake, that when there is a debate of vengeance, he must call a Council to stay his arm. When then we feel our selves agitated with this Passion, let us have recourse to our friends, and mature our anger by their determination; for whilst we are transported, we do nothing to purpose: Reason is of no more use to us in our Passions, than wings to a bird that is caught by the feet. Wherefore, if we would render the Soul capable of good and laudable actions, we must lift her from earth into a peaceable and tranquil condition; we must conduct

duct her to a disposition, like that of the upper Region which is never obscured by clouds, nor shaken by thunder, but in a perpetual serenity: she must not be darkned by sorrow, nor hurried by wrath; and when she is once settled in this Estate, 'twill be very easie to conveigh her other actions to their proper end, for then she traces Nature step by step, and allies her self by a sweet and temperate affection to the other parts of the world, of which man is as it were the knot that unites Celestial and Terrestrial things. The effects of this temperate affection of mans toward the other things of the world are called Offices, that is to say, the duty, and the manner how in this duty he ought to behave himself. To govern which duty, and to inform us of its use, we can have no better a Mistress, than Nature her self, who hath established a disposition, and an order throughout

out by which she hath subjected things to one another, chaining them together by the links of the respect they owe to her, which she hath graven in the foreheads of every of them as Princes, their faces upon coin to distinguish the title and law they ought to be of. Let us then in every thing consider the Order of Nature, and we shall presently know its estimation for how much we ought to take it, and what we ought to return.

Good being the Object of the will of man, where it is most pure, and most entire, ought to be of the greatest value. The chiefest then, and most firm affection ought to be that which knits him to the Author and Principal of all Good. This affection is Piety, by which man reunites, and consolidates himself to his first cause as to his root, in which, whilst he continues firm and fixed he preserves his perfection; and

and on the contrary dyes and withers when he quits it ; the chief effect of Piety is to teach our selves to know God : for from the knowledge of things proceeds the honour we attribute to them. We must first then believe him to be, that by his Power, Bounty and Wisdome he created the world, and governs it by the same ; that his Providence watcheth over all, even the least things : That all things he hath sent us, are for our good, and that our ill proceeds from our selves ; for if we call the fortune he sends us, ill, we blaspheme against him ; because we naturally honour such as do us good, and hate such as do us harm. We must then resolve to obey him, and thankfully receive whatsoever comes from his hand. His knowledge being most perfect, his power most immense, and his will most charitable, how can we but conclude, that he will send us nothing but what

what tends to our good? Moreover, whereas we sometimes comprehend not the consequent benefits of what he sends us, we ought ever to hope and conceive, that as the Physician oft doth things for the bodies health, which at the first may seem harsh (as when he pricks the eye to recover the Patients sight) so God in the conduct of our lives restores us by means that appear troublesome and hurtful, and often penetrates the heart with stabbing afflictions, thereby to enlighten the mind with the radiance of his glory. Under this assurance we ought to commit and submit our selves unto him; alwaies acknowledging, that we come not into this world to command, but to obey, having here found the Laws already established, by which we ought to live: and therefore we should alwayes have in our mouths, as a Rule of wise obedience to the Ordinances of God,

these excellent verses of *Cleanthes* :

*My God, conduct me in thy ordered
way,
I'll follow Thee : least from a bles'd
Estate
Fawning temptations draw my mind
astray
To lose, what I may win, pursuing that.*

For what remains, we must neither address our vows or prayers for the impetration of any thing he hath not ordained. For to ask a thing against his Providence, were to corrupt the Judge and Governour of the World. The most acceptable prayer we can make to him, and the most profitable for our selves, is, that he will please to contain our affections pure and holy, and so govern the will, that it ever address it self to **Good** : the Sacrifice he expects from us, is an innocent life : He desires not our goods, but that we should

should render our selves worthy of His. There is no offering so mean, which to him is not acceptable if presented by hands pure and innocent ; nor no so rich or sumptuous Sacrifice which will not offend him, if it come from polluted and contaminated hands. *Apollo* being asked how he was pleased with the Sacrifice of an hundred Oxen, made answer;

*Of Hermion I lik'd the Corn,
Though Offer'd in a homely Urn.*

As if he had said, The wise man is the only true Sacrificer of the great God, whose Spirit is his Temple, whose Soul his Image, whose affections his Offering, whose greatest and most solemn Sacrifice is his Imitation: not that you are not to observe the ancient Ceremonies of your Country with a decent moderation, void of excess or avarice;

but that you must perform them with this opinion; that God will be observed by the Spirit: And therefore we say, to conclude this discourse, that the holiest manner, by which we can honour and serve him, is, that after we have set him forth with all the titles, and most magnificent Eulogies we can imagine, we constantly believe, and publickly confess, that we have as yet presented him nothing worthy of him, but that the defect is in our own impotence and infirmity, which can aim at nothing of more dignity. Upon the honour we owe to God, depends the Opinion we ought to have that he is present at all our actions, whether we be prostrate before him, or in conversation among men; wherefore we ought to speak to him as in the hearing of men, and live with men as in the sight of God. But we should (above all) be very religious, when we attest him to the witness

of

•a truth: For the observation of an Oath, is the chiefest part of Piety. An Oath is no other than the image of this universal Law, flowing from the bounty of God, to hold all the parts of the world in their place, and preserve them what they ought to be : 'Tis a band that tyes men together by consent ; 'tis the Guardian of Constancy and Truth ; 'tis as it were the knot of civil Society, which is locked and shut by the reverence of the Almighties Sacred Name who overlooks the actions of Mankind. It were (indeed) better (if you could by the testimony of a pure and holy life, win so much belief, that your own word might assure them with whom you have to do) to spare an Oath : but if you cannot avoid it, take heed you use it soberly, and as seldom as you can ; for the frequent use of any thing whatever begets misprision : But especially take heed you use it for no other

other end, than the assertion of a Truth, representing to your selves, that God is seated above, Protector of Faithful, and Avenger of perjur'd men. Now from the honour due to God the first mover, we must descend to that of the heavenly powers by him constituted for the government of the world, in which we must acknowledge an excellency and constancy in Virtue ; in their perfection, admire the greatness of their Creator ; and respect their function, as an imployement for the conservation and protection of men. Thence we descend to the reverence we owe to them, by whose means (as by Channels selected by God for that purpose) we issue into the world. In which first Sally, we first meet our Native Country, which under a fictitious name, comprehends a true and natural Charity ; and to it we reasonably owe more affection than to all other things in this lower world,

world, as she impales the rest we love, and cherish ; and which stand firm in her preservation, and on the contrary with her must necessarily perish. From this generous affection, so many eminent actions have taken birth, of such *Heroes* as have gloriously exposed their lives for the preservation of their Country, forgot their private injuries, for fear of revenging them at the publick expence, and undertaken a voluntary and miserable life for the peace and repose of their native soil. You must then daily represent to your selves, that this Clime, which hath produced and nourished you, claims from you in return the Laws of Piety, exacts from you the duty of good and faithful Citizens, and conjures you to all this, by the place of your birth, by the Laws of your City, by the faith of civil Society, and by the safety of your Fathers, Children, Friends and Selves. You

must then be more solicitous of your Country than of the world beside, never to prefer your particular interest to her Good, nor repell upon her the dangers that only threaten you. Your Country thus served, Parents succeed in the claim of Duty : For God having chosen by their means to distribute life, and in some measure rendred them Partners of his Vertue, will also that they share a proportion in his Honour : If God have bestowed them wise and vertuous, we ought to esteem them as Gods upon earth, not only appointed for the work of life, but also to bless that life to us by good education and grave instruction ; if otherwise they be perverse and wicked, they are notwithstanding our Parents ; we ought to bear it ; and as they carry that name, serve and assist them with what we only hold of them, that is to say, with our Persons, Goods and Lives. This performed,

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we do homage to Nature, and acknowledge her bounty. From our Parents we descend to our Children; towards whom, although the affection be not so ceremonious, 'tis notwithstanding of the same or a greater tenderness. For God having disposed us together as it were upon a guard in the world, it appears that before we go hence, we ought to depute other Ministers of this Sovereign Power in our place to serve him in this Common Temple. The birth of Children is but ours in part; there are many other things contribute to it, but their nature and precept is all our own; which we owe to God, to whom we present them; to our Country, for whose service they were born; and to our selves, who from their good manners, are to expect the support and comfort of our old age. We ought then diligently to watch for them, and as much as in us lies solicit their future good.

good. After Children, follow Wives, who united to us by the Law, and entring Society with us under the great endearment of the Posterity they bring, have an eminent and legitimate share in our affection: In their friendship we sweeten the adversities of this life: by their cares we lessien our own, and repose under their diligence. We must therefore return them a respect fit to entertain and nourish the respect they bring, and value their good and their peace as persons who are part of our selves. But especially, we ought to assure them that that respect and honour proceeds not from any pride we take in their youth and beauty (least that exalt them to fiercenes, and least the fires of our own affections lighted at such fading things, too soon burn out) but rather from the expectation we have of their fidelity, chaste manners, and vertuous care of our common Children: and to establish

blish their assurance, let us shew them that we will admit no separate interest of goods, thoughts or affections; for in this communion, goodwill and friendship have their encrease; which on the contrary, are dispersed and lost in the diversity of inclinations and designs. This affection pastes from our Wives to our Kindred, to whom Nature hath ally'd us, and conveyed with the blood a secret inclination, and good will towards the Persons derived from the same stem; and as they are nearer, this affection is more lively, and obliges us to more vigilant endeavours of service. To observe then in this (as in all other things) the order Nature hath proposed as the chief ornament of all her works, we must discover the affection we owe to our Kindred according to their place, and as they are nearest in blood, render them all the offices of assistance and service we possibly can.

can. Thus far Nature with her own hand guides our affections : we must now come to the motion virtue gives them, who allies us in Friendship with wise and vertuous persons : and of all the goods that civil Society begets, there is none we ought more to cherish and esteem, than the friendship of honest men, as the basis and pillar of our felicity. 'Tis that friendship that sweetens what is bitter, and seasons what is sweet, that teaches whom in prosperity to oblige, with whom to rejoice in our good fortune, who in our affliction are fit to comfort and relieve us, in our Youth to teach and instruct us, in our old age to support us, and who in our flourishing age of man are fit to second and assist us. As the profession of this friendship is pretious, so ought we to make use of our Prudence in acquiring it, such as it ought to be : And first, amongst men we must seek out the most

most worthy ; love and honour them as given by God himself to engage with us in the society of good and laudable actions. We ought to contract them by honest opportunities, and once acquired to preserve them to us by industrious Offices : for all Creatures, and principally men are born with an inclination to love whatever is advantageous to them. The virtuous man notwithstanding, proportions not this benefit by the abundance of what we call Goods and Riches, but by the advantage he receives by his Friends, of advancing himself in virtuous qualities : and if it so happen, that we have any contest with our Friends in a share of Goods, Honours, or the like, we ever ought to give place to them, since all these can never be better employed than in the acquisition of Friends. And there is only one excuse for our withdrawing from them, which is,

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when they abandon Reason and Philosophy that unites us in that correspondence: And when we do quit them, we must do it with all modesty, not therefore becoming their enemies; but sincerely rip without tearing, and without blaming their actions or opinions, seek all means to restore them by Reason, to their deserted duty, fighting them with arguments, which are the sacred arms of friendship; and though we lose all hope so to reclaim them, we ought, notwithstanding, never to become their enemies; for though the good man forsake his friends when they forsake their virtue, and renounce his familiarity, and former intimacy, he nevertheless retains for them the charitable affection which ought to be among men, which obliges him to wish them well; imitating the bounty of God, who loves the good, and yet hates not the wicked: And 'tis a common Proverb,

verb, The Good man hath no enemies, for he hates no man.

These are the degrees betwixt Man and the things that are without him. But because it oft falls out, that they draw us to diverse ends, and consequently hold us suspended in doubt and anxiety ; we must establish our selves a Rule, by which we must ever prefer the first to the last. An Oath ought to be dear unto us, but we had better violate an Oath, than offend God by observing it. Our Parents ought to be had in high reverence ; but if their wills be contrary to Right reason, and to that which God hath put into us for our better government, we ought rather to abandon them than God and Reason ; Our Kindred should be dear to us ; but if our Kindred would provoke us to things hurtful to our Parents, we must not consent with them. Our friends have a great power over us, but after our

our Wives and Children. There are indeed certain particular offices which we owe to persons of less interest, rather than to others; to our Neighbours than our Friends, to our Friends than Kindred: but it is ordinarily in matters of little consequence, and where civil society something usurps upon Nature, for the common necessity of Man.

I have thus far represented to you the respect that man owes to things that are without him: it is now time to make him descend into himself, and into himself to retire his affections, as lines to their Center. The wise man no doubt payes a great respect to himself; and though it be only discovered to his own thoughts, he is nevertheless very wary of doing, or saying any unbecoming thing. For right Reason (which ought to sway his actions) is to him the same with the severest Judge, and the most rigid Censurer.

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We must then be very circumspect, as well in publick as in private ; so to compose our actions as not to blush at them ; and that Nature (according to whose rule we ought to compose our selves) be not violated. Nature hath given us a body as a necessary instrument of life ; we must be careful of this body ; but only careful as of a thing under the tuition of the mind, to which it owes a regard and not a service ; and ought to entertain it as a Prince, not a Tyrant ; to nourish, not to make it fat ; and to shew that it lives not for it , but cannot here below subsist without it. 'Tis no little address to an Artificer, that he knows how to prepare his tools ; nor no little advantage to a Philosopher, that he can so order his body, as to make it a fit instrument to the exercise of vertue. The Body is to be preserved in an estate of health two wayes ; by moderate diet, and sea-

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sonable exercise: for the nature of sublunary things is so gliding, that if we continually repair not what time consumes, by little and little they waste to nothing: we must then assist, and support the body by the use of food; and yet so, as the excess render it not drowsie, and indisposed to contemplation; nor the two slender diet, weak and languishing; that neither Luxury soften it, nor negligence pollute it. Exercise follows nourishment, though they seem to follow and wheel about one another; for we exercise and eat; eat and exercise; the one to prepare us for meat, the other to awake Nature, and keep the bodies part in motion; and we should so use them, that the body may be the better, and the mind never the worse. We must not follow the exercise of wraftlers, and the like which are incumbred with measures, and observations, and of no other use than to preserve the body

body in breath, debilitating the Soul and robbing her of her true and natural motions; the search of exercise for the body, is unworthy a man, since in all places he may finde as much as is necessary for health. The Body thus nourished and exercised, is easily modelled to civil and becoming actions; to which we ought to have a regard, and endeavour, that our looks and motions may by a calm gravity discover a tranquillity in the mind. We must by no means practice affected looks and gestures; neither to simper like a wanton, nor contract the brows like a Philosopher; for as a sweet composednes renders a man venerable, so proud and forced austerity renders him ridiculous, and troublesome. Now, since Speech is the Interpreter of Looks, we ought with all discreet care to govern and moderate that; and the best precept we have for that purpose is silence.

To know how to be silent, is a great advantage to speaking well; and to speak well and much, is not the mastery of one and the same man. Silence is the parent of discourse, and the Fountain of Reason, and on the contrary much speaking commits many faults. They that look at any thing curiously, shut one eye, and twinkle with the other, to fit and re-enforce their sight: which teaches us that the fence being darted outward, by spreading, becomes weaker and less; so the mind thrown out in words, scattered, and strewed in much conference loses its force and virtue; and on the contrary being bridled, recollects, reinforces, and fits it self with Prudence and Wis dome. The use of speech ought upon occasion to be employed for the assistance of Truth; to bear its Torch that it may be seen; and on the contrary, to discover and confute what is false; to praise what is good,

good, and to blame what is ill. Neither must it be carried on with vehemence or contention, for they discover Passion : Neither employed about what is done at the publick place, or upon the Theater, for that discovers a great and unprofitable leisure : Neither is it handsome to repeat your own actions, or the fortunes you have run through, for that discovers Vanity ; others take less Pleasure in hearing, than you in telling them : and to speak of another mans is a slippery path ; since it often falls out, that you either commend them without reason, or dispraise them without justice. But above all, take heed of fleering Drollery, for that favours too much of the Buffoon, and lessens our esteem with prudent men : and besides that such jestings are commonly mixed with scurrilous words (which all ought to avoid.) The licence of immodest language succeeds in ef-

fects of the same Nature. Your discourse, if it were possible, should alwayes benefit the Hearers, be full of good and wise Counsels, serve to guide such as go astray, to Vertue, and turn them from Vice. You must in common discourse, avoid tender and subtle Questions; they are Crevices, of which, more are to be picked out than to be eaten; their conclusion is noise; and it often happens with those that love Controversie, as with ill stomacks which spue up what they cannot digest. As we desire to be heard when we speak our selves, so we ought to attend others when they speak, without interruption. Some there are who consent to every thing another sayes, and some that contradict whatever is said; of which kind, the one is servile, the other indiscreet: We ought to yeild to what is evidently true; to deny what is evidently false; and in doubtful things to suspend our judge-

judgement, till we have found some reason to assure us.

Since language and behaviour are commonly formed by Custom and Imitation, we should not mix ourselves with people, nor frequent Theaters and Publick places, Feasts, and Balls, for a man contracts much of the Vulgar in all these places: but if we be obliged in honour to be there, we must ever have the mind so fortified, that nothing escape our resolution, which is to be governed as I before have told you. And the better so to fortifie us, we must call to mind the example of wise men; Think how a *Socrates* or a *Zeno* would have behaved himself in our place, and their Vertue will prompt us with Examples of well doing. The most profitable instruction that Philosophy can prescribe to all your actions, is, that you carefully examine what ought to be the Progress, and the issue of what you under-

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take, and to measure the proportion betwixt your power and purpose. He that wisely deliberates with himself, arrives at his intended port ; but he that lives without Counsel, resembles a thing floating upon a river, which goes not, but is carried, and finally arrives at the Sea, that is to say, a vast and turbulent incertitude. In all our enterprizes, then let us have a foresight to what may be the end, consider the means we have to atchieve that end, and prevent by expectation, whatever accident may happen. Will you offer your selves at the Olympick games ? Consider first the trouble, that you must live by rule, only eat such meats, at such hours, inure your selves to heat, and cold, anoint, and powder, enter the lifts, be hurt ; it may be overcome and disgraced ; having foreseen all these inconveniences, consider your bodies constitution what you can bear, and as you find your selves fit, engage.

Will

Will you profess Philosophy! you must then remember, that you are to suffer much, deny your selves many delights, and with much patience submit to the scorn and reproach of all the world. If you have the courage to endure all this, undertake it; which once undertaken, you are to persevere, and pursue your resolution, as an inviolable Law. For beside that the mutability in design renders the mind waving, and uncertain, it moreover renders our Persons ridiculous; whereas Constancy makes us the admiration, even of them who were our first despisers. Be not therefore astonished at the judgement others make of your actions; but have a care they be such as they ought; neither trouble your selves to conceal them from such as they do not please: if they be ill, you ought not do it; and if they be good, they are the more assured by being the better known: Not that I would have

have you affect to be seen in well doing and proclaim your vertue, like those who run to embrace publick Statues for a private refuge: as colours glitter to the light, yet go not to seek the Sun, but rather keep themselves prepared to receive his light when he shines; so vertue ought not to seek glory, but to make her self fit to receive it from the testimonies of those who sincerely judge of her merit. He that is in love with Praise and Ostentation, quits his obedience to Reason, for that of Opinion; for he choothes rather to please another, than himself.

Nothing so much advances the success of any enterprize, as a present use of occasion. Time carries with him certain moments which are the seasons of busines; if you lose them, your labour remains without fruit: but if to an opportunity well taken you ad diligence, you shall rarely fail of a prosperous issue: and therefore, what-

whatever is naturally deliberated, must be diligently executed, without procrastination, or leaving that for to morrow which may be done to day. But whatever we do, with whatever prudence we undertake it, whatever occasion we choose, or with whatever diligence we pursue, we must know, that notwithstanding all this, Fortune hath a great share in the Event. We are only Masters of our own councils and inclinations, all the rest have another dependance. All that we can therefore do, is to attempt with prudence, pursue with hope, and support intervening accidents with Patience. If good enterprizes have ill success, the *Persian* Commanders answer will serve to excuse unfortunate wise men; who being asked, why (He being so wise and valiant, his affairs had no better success? Because (said he) my affairs depend upon my own Councils, but the success upon the

King

King and Fortune. It is enough that we secure what is meerly our own work ; that we undertake nothing but to a good end, and only pursue it by honest means.

These are the chief rules, by which the Stoick thinks he should govern this life. But since Laws without judgement are unprofitable, and as dead words ; we must to be the better for them, shut up every of our daies with an examination and censure of our actions ; sift them every night to find out which are conformable to the rules I have proposed ; plaining them, to find where they are rough, split, or crooked, and to close and smooth them to right Reason. If we find all things well and conform to these sacred Laws, we shall feel a secret joy in the Soul, which we gather as the sweet fruits of our innocence. This (in my opinion) will be the most harmonious, and the most acceptable nocturnal

nocturnal Hymn we can sing to Almighty God, who I believe, receives no greater satisfaction in this lower world, than to see men (his dearest, and most precious work) preserve the beauty and perfection of his Creation. But since the Nature of things created, by its infirmity is apt to suffer that good (with which God hath been pleased to endow them at their birth) daily to perish, and consume of it self (were it not continually repaired, and sustained by the ordinary flux of his bounty poured upon us, and that therefore our own force were insufficient of it self to preserve in us this Perfection) let us add to this first Canticle, an Epode and Sacred Charm to invoke his divine favour; and in that manner finish every day of this life, and now this present Instruction, saying;

O only Good, only wise and Omnipotent God! who hast given us understanding to govern the course of

of this mortal life, make that life know and love the Excellence with which it is adorned ; and so assist it, that when it shall come to give motion to the powers of the Soul, it may find the Members, and the Sences purged from all Passions, and ready to obey. Draw from our mindes Eye the Cloudy Curtain of Lust and Ignorance, that our Reason being illuminated by the radiance of thy divine Truth, may address us towards that which truly is, and ever shall be our eternal Good.

F I N I S.

